UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/498
S/1996/851
15 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 14 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention a new grave development in Cyprus concerning the murder in cold blood of an innocent Cypriot civilian by the Turkish occupation troops.

On Sunday, 13 October 1996, at about 7.30 a.m., Turkish soldiers shot dead Petros Kakoullis, a 58-year-old refugee from the occupied Lefkoniko township who resided since the Turkish invasion in 1974 at Avgorou village. Mr. Kakoullis, who was shot in the area behind the old Akhna village police station, had gone with his son-in-law, Panicos Hadjiathanassiou, to collect snails. This area is adjacent to the British bases and it is easy for anybody who is not familiar with the surroundings to find himself by mistake in the part controlled by the Turkish Army.

According to the eye-witness account of the victim's son-in-law, Mr. Kakoullis, when confronted by the two Turkish soldiers, raised his hands with the intention of giving himself up. Despite this, the two Turkish soldiers shot him and when he fell down they approached and fired at him again from close range while he was lying on the ground. The Turkish occupation forces did not allow anyone to approach the victim and he was left helpless on the ground for almost four hours.

Turkish allegations that the soldiers fired warning shots and then shot the victim while he was trying to escape are distinctly disproved by eye-witness testimony.

This is the fourth cold-blooded killing of unarmed Greek Cypriots over the past three months to take place in Cyprus by Turkish soldiers. In all instances, no danger whatsoever was posed to the Turkish occupation forces.

The United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has stated that the loss of the innocent life of Mr. Kakoullis was "the result of the deplorable and unnecessary use of lethal force". Moreover, it emphasized that, "whatever the circumstances of yesterday's (13/10/96) disproportionate response, UNFICYP insists on the principle that deadly force must not be used by either side against persons who cross the respective cease-fire lines or enter the United Nations buffer zone", especially when lives of soldiers are not in danger.

It is evident that the sinister objective of these Turkish criminal actions is to further the division and partition of the island and promote the Turkish position that it is supposedly impossible for the two communities to live together in a reunited Cyprus. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as the international community in repeated United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, rejects these Turkish positions.

On behalf of my Government, I wish strongly to protest the brutal crime committed yet again by the Turkish occupation forces in Cyprus and to call upon you and the members of the Security Council to take all necessary steps to end these criminal acts and to see that those responsible be held fully accountable and brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations